

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for storing multimedia data, comprising:
 - a data storage medium, the medium having at least one analog-only read portion; and
 - a controller controlling the medium and including digital-to-analog circuitry, the controller permitting only the digital-to-analog circuitry to access the analog-only read portion for converting digitized multimedia stored in the analog-only read portion to analog format.
2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the analog-only read portion is embodied as a physical portion of the storage medium.
3. The device of Claim 1, wherein the analog-only read portion is embodied as a logical portion of the storage medium.
4. The device of Claim 1, wherein no digital output path exists on the device from the analog-only read portion except a path connecting the portion to the digital-to-analog circuitry.
5. The device of Claim 1, wherein the controller and storage medium are sealed in a housing.

6. The device of Claim 5, wherein the device is a hard disk drive and the storage medium is at least one disk.
7. The device of Claim 6, wherein the controller is a hard disk drive controller.
8. The device of Claim 1, further comprising a digital multimedia output terminal on a housing holding the storage medium and the controller for permitting access to digital multimedia not stored on the analog-only read portion.
9. The device of Claim 5, wherein the housing contains no terminal for permitting access from outside the housing to digital multimedia in the analog-only read portion.
10. The device of Claim 1, wherein after an expiration time, the digitized multimedia stored in the analog-only read portion is rendered effectively inaccessible.
11. A multimedia storage device, comprising:
 - an unrestricted area accessible to client devices outside the device such that digital multimedia stored on the unrestricted area may be accessed by the client devices; and
 - a restricted area containing digital multimedia that is at all times inaccessible to the client devices, the digital multimedia in the restricted area being accessible

only by a controller in the device, the controller always and under all circumstances converting the digital multimedia in the restricted area to analog format prior to permitting a client device to access content embodied by the multimedia.

12. The device of Claim 11, comprising a controller controlling the medium and including digital-to-analog circuitry, the controller permitting only the digital-to-analog circuitry to access the restricted area for converting digitized multimedia stored in the restricted area to analog format.

13. The device of Claim 12, wherein the restricted area is embodied as a physical portion of the storage medium.

14. The device of Claim 12, wherein the restricted area is embodied as a logical portion of the storage medium.

15. The device of Claim 12, wherein no digital output path exists on the device from the restricted area except a path connecting the portion to the digital-to-analog circuitry.

16. The device of Claim 12, wherein the controller and storage medium are sealed in a housing.

17. The device of Claim 16, wherein the device is a hard disk drive and the storage medium is at least one disk.

18. The device of Claim 17, wherein the controller is a hard disk drive controller.

19. The device of Claim 12, further comprising a digital multimedia output terminal on a housing holding the storage medium and the controller for permitting access to digital multimedia in the unrestricted area.

20. The device of Claim 16, wherein the housing contains no terminal for permitting access from outside the housing to digital multimedia in the restricted area.

21. The device of Claim 11, wherein after an expiration time, the digitized multimedia stored in the restricted area is rendered effectively inaccessible.

22. A multimedia player system, comprising:

an entertainment system; and

a multimedia storage device engaged with the entertainment system for receiving requests for multimedia, the storage device transmitting multimedia in digital format to the entertainment system unless the multimedia is stored in a restricted area on a storage medium of the storage device, in which case the

multimedia is first converted to analog format prior to sending the multimedia to the entertainment system.

23. The system of Claim 22, comprising a controller controlling the medium and including digital-to-analog circuitry, the controller permitting only the digital-to-analog circuitry to access the restricted area for converting digitized multimedia stored in the restricted area to analog format.

24. The system of Claim 23, wherein the restricted area is embodied as a physical portion of the storage medium.

25. The system of Claim 23, wherein the restricted area is embodied as a logical portion of the storage medium.

26. The system of Claim 23, wherein no digital output path exists on the multimedia storage device from the restricted area except a path connecting the portion to the digital-to-analog circuitry.

27. The system of Claim 23, wherein the controller and storage medium are sealed in a housing.

28. The system of Claim 27, wherein the multimedia storage device is a hard disk drive and the storage medium is at least one disk.

29. The system of Claim 28, wherein the controller is a hard disk drive controller.

30. The system of Claim 23, further comprising a digital multimedia output terminal on a housing holding the storage medium and the controller for permitting access to digital multimedia in the unrestricted area.

31. The system of Claim 27, wherein the housing contains no terminal for permitting access from outside the housing to digital multimedia in the restricted area.

32. The system of Claim 22, wherein after an expiration time, the multimedia stored in the restricted area is rendered effectively inaccessible.

33. A method for providing multimedia content, comprising:

providing a data storage device containing the content in digital form;

billing a user for at least one of: buying the storage device, renting the storage device, and loading the content onto the storage device;

preventing access to the content in digitized form from outside of the device;

and

transmitting the content outside the storage device only in analog form.